

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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ACDA-07 IO-13 SAM-01 SAJ-01 /081 W

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FM USMISSION USBERLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3069

INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN UNN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION USNATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L USBERLIN 1886

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, FR, WB, UR

SUBJECT: FRENCH- SOVIET BERLIN CONVERSATION OF SEPTEMBER 9

1. FRENCH MINISTER LANDY HAS GIVEN US BRIEF ACCOUNT OF SEPTEMBER 9 CONVERSATION AT FAREWELL LUNCH FOR FRENCH POLAD, TO WHICH SOVIET EMBASSY REPS WERE INVITED (MINISTER GROMYKO, COUNSELOR KHOTULEV, FIRST SECRETARY TYUTYUNOV). CONVERSATION WAS LARGELY SOCIAL, BUT FOLLOW- IN SUBSTANTIVE MATTERS EMERGED:

A. SOVS COMPLAINED THAT UPCOMING TAG DER HEIMAT (SEPTEMBER 12) WOULD BE PROVOCATIVE, AND THAT " FLAGS WOULD BE FLOWN ALL OVER." COMMENT: THIS IS ANNUAL EXPLELLEE GET-TOGETHER , NOW IN ITS 27TH YEAR. MOST OF THE CELEBRANTS WILL PRESUMABLY BE BERLINERS. END COMMENT.

B. THEY COMPLAINED ABOUT DELAY IN ALLIED CLEARANCE FOR NEW SOV CONGEN BYKOV, WHO WILL SUCCEED SHARKOV.

C. THEY POINTED TO AMBASSADOR ABRASIMOV'S NEUES DEUTSCHLAND STATEMENT ON THE QA, WHICH THEY CHARACTERIZED
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AS COMPLETE EXPOSITION OF SOV VIEWS.

D. ADVERTING TO THE AUGUST 13 EVENTS, THEY EMPHASIZED THAT THE ACCESS ROUTES TO BERLIN WERE GDR HIGHWAYS. AND NOT CORRIDORS. CHRONIC MISUSE COULD ENDANGER PRESENT ARRANGEMENTS.

E. THEY XREFLECTED ON TRADITIONAL GOOD RELATIONS BETWEEN FRANCE AND USSR, AND ASSERTED THAT THESE WOULD SURVIE BERLIN PROBLEMS. SOVS ONLY WANT TO KEEP BERLIN SITUATION PEACEFUL.

F. THEY EXPRESSED DISAPPOINTMENT THAT NO JOINT STATEMENT OR EVEN INFORMAL AMB MEETING WAS POSSIBLE TO COMMEMORATE QA ANNIVERSARY.

2. FRENCH REPLIED APPROPRIATELY IN LOW KEY. LANDY SAID RE QA ANNIVERSARY, THAT IT WAS SOMETIMES APPROPRIATE, AND SOMETIMES NOT, TO CALL ATTENTION TO ANNIVERSARIES. HE ALLUDED TO SOV HAPRING ON ALLIED PERFORMANCE, BY SAYING THAT ALLIES DEVOTED GREAT ATTENTION AND EFFORT TO MAKING THE QA WORK, WHICH REALITY SOVS DID NOT PUBLICLY ACKNOWLEDGE.

3. TO LATTER COOBSERVATION, GROMYKO RESPONDED WITH NON-SEQUITUR THAT SOV EMBASSY IN BERLIN HAD MANY MORE RESPONSIBILITIES THAN MERELY BOTHERING WITH WEST BERLIN.

4. ATMOSPHERE WAS REPORTEDLY CORDIAL. LANDY NOTED THAT GR VIS-A-VIS KHOTULEV, AND SEEMED SUSPICIOUS OF WHAT HIS JUNIOR COLLEAGUES WERE SAYING. COMMENT: WE HAVE NOTICED SAME AMBIVALENT PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP, EXPRESSED IN UNSEEMLY COMPETITION BETWEEN GROMYKO AND KHOTULEV IN PRESSING TALKING NOTES ON AMB ABRASIMOV DURING LATTER'S CONVERSATION WITH AMB HILLENBRAND.END COMMENT.
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